

**DATABASE ENGINES FOR PROCESSING IDEOGRAPHIC  
CHARACTERS AND METHODS THEREFOR**

By Inventors

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This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No.

10 09/857,363 entitled "Text Input For Ideographic And Nonideographic Languages",  
filed June 4, 2001, which ~~claims priority from an~~ <sup>is a continuation of</sup> International Application No.

PCT/US00/00135 entitled "Text Input System For Ideographic And  
Nonideographic Languages", filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty on January  
4, 2000, which was published under PCT Article 21(2) in English and claims  
15 priority from a US Provisional Patent Application No. 60/114,628 entitled "Text  
Input System For Ideographic And Nonideographic Languages", filed January 4,  
1999.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

20 The present invention relates in general to computer-implemented systems and  
techniques for inputting and encoding characters, and in particular to computer-  
implemented systems for inputting and encoding ideographic characters, such as those  
used in the Chinese, Korean, or Japanese language.

The English language uses its 26 letter alphabet to construct several hundred  
25 thousand words in left to right linear groups of varying lengths and combinations of  
letters. Each letter is associated with a sound. Ideographic-based languages, such as  
Chinese, Korean, or Japanese are constructed differently. To simplify the discussion,  
the Chinese language will be discussed in great detail herein although it should be  
kept in mind that the discussions, techniques, and systems herein also apply to other  
30 ideographic-based languages, such as Korean or Japanese.